



**Chief's Update**  
**May 4, 2015**  
**National Peace Officer Memorial Week**  
**"Honoring Courage, Saluting Sacrifice"**

Dear Tempe Police Employees,

As National Peace Officer Week approaches (May 10-16), I want to take this time to remember our brothers and sisters who have fallen in the line of duty, and to thank Tempe officers for your courage and dedication – those of you serving now, and all who came before.

National Peace Officer Week serves as a sobering reminder. The National Law Enforcement Memorial Fund reports that 117 law enforcement officers were killed in the line of duty in the United States in 2014. On average, we lost one officer every 58 hours. <http://www.nleomf.org/>

This week, while solemn, is also a poignant celebration of officers overcoming the odds. We have all experienced incidents during which a situation turns from ordinary to life-threatening in an instant. We train and re-train to be mindful, vigilant and focused, and we know that no incident is 'routine.' As you put on your uniform at the beginning of each shift, know that your safety – and getting you home safely to your families – is the absolute highest priority for me and the entire command staff.






Thanks to the dedication and expertise of our civilian employees, our officers have the superlative professional support needed to fight crime and keep them safe; together we provide our community with a consistently outstanding level of service. During dynamic and challenging times, we continue to receive the trust of our diverse community, which gives us such strong support because we remain committed to partnership, to justice, and to approaching the job with integrity and fairness day in and day out despite all the challenges.

Each day, we have a profound opportunity to re-dedicate ourselves to safeguarding the principles that our fallen friends and officers worked each day to uphold, and to honoring the unbidden sacrifice made by their families, and ours. These principles, mission and sacrifice are why our community and City Council agreed to support our Police and Fire Memorial project. So far \$22,995 in generous contributions has been raised.

In memory of our fallen officers, a tribute to each of them and information about the memorial can be found at <http://www.tempe.gov/city-hall/police/public-safety-memorial-3380>

Thank you and keep safe,

Tom

	<p>Detective Russell Elden Welker, age 34  Years of Service: 10  End of Watch: May 15, 2009  Detective Welker was assigned to Auto Theft Investigations at the time of his death and he had the unique honor of working at the same time as his father, Terry Welker, a 30+ year veteran of the Tempe Police Department. He was a 10-year veteran of the department. He is survived by his wife, two daughters, his parents and sister.</p>
	<p>Officer Kevin Louis Weeks, age 28  Years of Service: 7  End of Watch: September 28, 2006  Cause: Motorcycle Collision  Officer Kevin Weeks died after crashing his police motorcycle on the Loop 101 near Broadway. He was a 7-year veteran of the department.</p>
	<p>Officer Robert Lyle Hawk, age 28  Years of Service: 1.5  End of Watch: September 24, 1988  Cause: Vehicular Assault  Officer Robert Hawk was struck and killed by a hit-and-run driver while conducting a traffic stop on the Superstition Freeway. He was struck as he returned to his vehicle after talking with the driver of the vehicle he had stopped. Hawk had been with the agency for 18 months and was survived by his wife and two sons.</p>
	<p>Lt. John Eaton Bradshaw, age 45  Years of Service: 20  End of Watch: Sept. 20, 1987  Cause: Gunfire  Lieutenant John Bradshaw was shot and killed while responding to a call for assistance from another officer. The officer's weapon had been stolen by an inmate he was transporting to the hospital. The suspect then took a motorcycle driver hostage and fled the scene. Lieutenant Bradshaw stopped up the road from the suspect and waited for his arrival at Hohokam Highway and University Drive. When the suspect saw the patrol car, he fired one shot which struck Lieutenant Bradshaw in the chest. Bradshaw had served with the Tempe Police Department for 20 years. He was survived by his wife and four children.</p>
	<p>Night Marshal Cyrus Spangler  End of Watch: Jan. 11, 1921  Cause: Gunfire  Marshal Cyrus Spangler was shot and killed by two men when he responded to a robbery in progress at store at 6th Street and Mill Avenue. An 11-year-old boy was also shot and killed and the proprietor was seriously wounded. Three days later, both suspects were shot and killed in a gunfight with immigration inspectors in Calabasas, Arizona.</p>